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From_the_Chairman

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From the Chairman

We often hear about life's vagaries. My father frequently told me "... the only thing certain in life is change. It is inevitable and it is continuous. You change with it or you get left behind." This change continues to be true for our Foundation. Some changes are easy; some are very hard and painful. The loss of Harvey Jones is unquestionably painful.

Adjusting to the loss of Harvey will be difficult for us. He was irreplaceable. Very few possess the understanding regarding the history of architecture and construction that Harvey had. This understanding, along with his knowledge of Huntsville/Madison County history and his willingness to give of himself in the cause of preservation, made him truly one-of-a-kind. While we mourn his loss, we must adjust and move on. Harvey would have it no other way. We will be calling on services at the state and national levels as well as developing talents and interests within our organization. The Foundation may sponsor attendees to workshops and conferences on preservation techniques ranging from establishing historic districts and acquiring endangered properties to masonry techniques and wood structure preservation. The community turns to the Foundation for assistance in these areas.

That change is continuous is apparent when one views the photographs taken in downtown Huntsville during the 50s. Many of the old buildings are gone; most of the 50s buildings are also either gone or threatened. The remaining older structures are probably in less danger of disappearing than structures approaching their fiftieth birthday. This 50s group is in extreme danger as there is little sympathy for their preservation. While older structures are safe from the wrecking ball, a significant threat in *renovation* without adherence to the tenets of preservation frequently destroys or diminishes a building's historical significance. Providing education to owners performing these renovations is a fundamental goal of our Foundation.

While change would appear to be the enemy of historic preservation, it is, nonetheless, viewed as progress by the community and those in power. Consequently, in order to carry out our mission of preserving sites and structures, we must also be prepared to adjust our approaches and procedures. Your board is working to adjust to the needs, and we appreciate your continued support in our efforts.

Ben Walker